

COLORADO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2008 OUTSTANDING OPERATOR AWARDS

- Early each year, the COGCC places a call for nominations for the awards for the previous year's operations, which are intended to recognize the extraordinary achievements of the oil and gas industry in Colorado in several operational, environmental and community involvement categories.
- This year's awards mark the 13th year of this very successful program. We appreciate COGA allowing us to present the awards at this important, highly visible event and we would especially like to thank all of the individuals who prepared and submitted nominations for these awards.
- These awards honor projects that were performed in 2008 that merit special recognition. Five Colorado operators were honored this year in four categories. The honorees are:

Williams Production Company - Reclamation

Williams Production Company – Visual Impact Mitigation and Noxious weed Reduction

(First Award -- Reclamation)

- Williams Production Company has formed a partnership with CSU's Warner College of Natural Resources and the BLM to study the best methods of reclamation for well sites in Northwestern Colorado.
- The study evaluated 55 reclaimed drilling pads for the success of their reclamation methods. Reclamation test plots have also been set up to evaluate different methods of soil preparation, seed broadcasting, and seed mixtures.
- This study will be an ongoing project with an estimated life of four to five years and the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission hopes the results will benefit all operators in northwest Colorado.

(Second Award – Noxious Weed Reduction)

- Williams Production Company began in 2006 to suppress and control tamarisk on 1,353 acres of property owned by William's and adjacent BLM lands. The tamarisk is also known as salt cedar because it deposits salt residue through its leaf litter.
- Tamarisk is considered an undesirable plant that displaces native vegetation, provides poor habitat for wildlife, and uses more water than native species.
- Williams has sponsored programs to physically remove tamarisk and replace it with native species such as cottonwood and has also partnered with the Palisade Insectary to release tamarisk leaf beetles which feed and the leaf of the tamarisk plant.
- The COGCC is pleased to present both of these awards to Williams Production Company for their help in eliminating this noxious plant and their well site reclamation study.

Occidental Oil and Gas Corporation – Environmental Protection

- Occidental has partnered with the Colorado Natural Areas Program (a program of the Colorado Division of State Parks) to protect the “Parachute penstemon” (pen(t)-stə-mən), a rare plant found only in Colorado. Three viable populations of this plant occur on Oxy property near Parachute, Colorado.
- In order to protect this plant Occidental established Best Management practices to be used during oil and gas operations. These BMP’s include fencing, reduced vehicle speeds, and the training and monitoring of Oxy personnel.
- For their efforts, Occidental received a Conservation Award from the Colorado Rare Plant Conservation Initiative and the COGCC would also like to recognize Occidental for their efforts to preserve this rare plant.

Rosetta Resources Operating, LP - Reclamation

Note: Rosetta Resources was nominated for this award by COGCC Environmental staff.

- In 2008 Rossetta Resources completed the closure and reclamation of 22 unlined production pits in Yuma County, Colorado. Rosetta resources wished to replace these pits with tanks to eliminate to the possibility of future environmental impacts.
- Closure procedures included soil analysis to insure compliance with concentration levels allowed under COGCC rule 910 and the removal of soils containing high total petroleum hydrocarbon levels.
- Total expenditures for this project were approximately \$100,000. The COGCC is pleased to present this award to Rosetta Resources for their proactive efforts in pit reclamation.

Encana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc. – Community Relations ACCEPTING THE AWARD –

- EnCana Oil and Gas has established a new community relations program in the Erie, Colorado area called “Courtesy Notice Protocol”. This program was developed to keep residents of Erie informed of EnCana’s activity in their community.
- The tools developed include “Courtesy Notices” which are mailed to any resident within ½ mile of EnCana activity. The notices describe the proposed operation, also a computerized activity map is available through Google that provides additional information, and a “Feedback Phone Line” that provides cell phone numbers so neighbors can reach human assistance.
- Since initialing these programs, EnCana has experienced an 80% reduction in complaint calls in this area. For these very inventive methods of public outreach, the COGCC presents this award to EnCana for Outstanding Operations in Community Relations.

Noble Energy, Inc. – Environmental Protection

- Prior to developing portions of its Piceance Basin acreage located near Project Rulison, Noble Energy worked with a number of stakeholders to develop the Rulison “Sampling and Analysis Plan” (SAP).

- This plan was developed in conjunction with the COGCC, the Colorado Department of Health and Environment, Garfield County, and local citizens.

- During 2008 Noble drilled 21 wells and completed 11 wells under the “Sampling and Analysis Plan” with zero Project Rulison related incidents, zero NOAV’s and a strong record of compliance as evidenced by a COGCC audit. For Noble’s unique efforts in developing the Rulison area sampling and analysis plan, the COGCC presents this award.

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